

Of the Form of

The most Horrid and Stupendious

OATH,

WHEREBY

The French King Confirmed his Alliance with the  
T U R K S.*Faithfully Translated from the French Historiographer, Du Ribier, in  
his Memoirs, whereof the Latin Original is here annexed.**The True Form of the Oath.*

BY the Great and High God, Merciful and Gracious, Maker of Heaven and Earth, and of all Things that are in them; and by the Holy Gospel, by the Holy Baptism, by Saint John the Baptist, and by the Christian Faith; I Promise and Swear, to Declare all Things I shall know, to the Most High Lord Sultan—— whose Reign God be pleased to strengthen; I will be a special Friend to his Friends, and an Enemy to his Enemies; I will be a Redeemer to the Turk Prisoners, from the hands of his Enemies, nothing shall be fraudulently done on my side. And in case I neglect to do it; I shall be an Apostate, and a Prevaricator against the Commands of the Holy Gospel, and of the Christian Faith; I will say the Gospel is false; I will deny that Jesus Christ is living, and that his Mother was a Virgin; I will slay a Hog upon the Font of the Baptism, and Curse the Priests of the Altar; I will commit Fornication upon the Altar with Lasciviousness, and receive upon my self all the Curses of the Holy Fathers. So help me God from his High Place.

Here follows the Original Copy in Latin.

PER Deum Magnum & Altum, Misericordem & Benignum, Creatorem Cæli & Terræ, & omnium quæ in eis sunt, & per Sancta hæc Evangelia, per Sanctum Baptisma, per Sanctum Johannem Baptistam, & per Fidem Christianorum, Promitto & Juro, quod omnia quæ novero, aperta erunt Altissimo Domino Sultano,——cujus Regnum Deus fortificet; Ero Amicus suorum unicus, & inimicus inimicorum, & Redemptor Captivorum Turcarum ex vinculis Hostium ejus; nihil in mea parte fraudulenter erit. Quod si hoc neglexerim ero Apostata; Mandatorum Sancti Evangelii, Christianæque fidei Prævaricator, dicam Evangelium falsum, & negabo Christum vivere, & Matrem ejus Virginem fuisse; super Fontem Baptismatis Porcum interficiam, & Altaris Presbyteros maledicam; super Altare Fornicabor cum Luxuria; & Sanctorum Patrum maledictiones omnes in me recipiam. Ita me Deus respiciat ex alto.

Good God! What a complication of Impiety, Blasphemy, Contradiction, Extravagancy, and Folly, is there in this Oath, and how Guilty are both those, who Swear such an Oath, and those who prescribe it to be Sworn!

We see by this Oath, the French King prays to God to prosper the Sultan's Reign; and engages to do his utmost endeavours to promote his Interests against his Enemies, who are the Christians, and to be their Enemy in the Turks behalf; and in case he neglects to do it, he consents to be an Apostate from the Christian Faith; that is, unless he strives with all his power to overthrow the Christian Interest and Faith, and the Holy Gospel, he will be an Apostate from the Christian Faith. Nothing, says he, shall be fraudulently done on my side. How! can there be any thing more fraudulent and treacherous, than to call God for a Witness of such an execrable Oath, contrived against God himself? Is it not a horrid fraud, to call the Gospel and the Baptism Holy, and at the same time, to say, that in case he does not himself all what in him lies to destroy both; the Gospel, and the Christian Faith will be false. But we are much beholding to him for his Moderation, in committing only Fornication upon the Altar, tho' he does it with Lasciviousness, for he might as well for ought I know, have committed the Crime of Sodomy.

A Prince, who offers to do such Things as are mentioned in this Oath, in case he does not keep such an abominable Oath, is guilty of all those Crimes already; and does no better, than if he had said, I Swear by the Most High God, to Kill my Father and my Mother, and all my Relations, and in case I do not perform my Vow, I am resolved to say there is no God; such is the Religion of the Most Christian King.

It was Francis the I. who, first of all the French Kings, took this astonishing Oath, as it is reported by the French Historiographer Du Ribier, in his Memoirs; he was then engaged in a War against Charles the Vth Emperor, so that he thought fit to make an Alliance with the Turks, to get some Succour from

from them ; and indeed, they sent a great Fleet and Army to help him, under the Command of their Admiral and General *Barbarossa*, who Landed in *France* ; and did in *Provence* and the County of *Nyssa* great mischiefs, more a great deal than to the Emperor's Subjects. *Du Ribier* reports, that none in the French King's Council opposed this Oath, but only *Chancellor du Prat*, who was mightily against it, but could not prevail, so that it was taken by *Francis* accordingly.

But it may be, some will say, tho' *Francis* the 1st. took that Oath, it is not certain, that *Lewis* the XIVth. has taken it, in making Alliance with the *Turks*. I confess indeed, no Historiographer has related it of him, as has been done of his Predecessor ; but 'tis no wonder, for such things are carefully kept secret during his Life, and shall not be known before his Death ; Methinks there is little Reason to doubt he has done it also, or some other worse, and this for the following Reasons. 1st. It is the constant practice of all the Princes and States, when they have once prevailed upon another State to Treat an Alliance with them, upon Terms, and Forms, and Expressions Favourable, Advantageous, and Honourable to their own Party, never to change any thing of them in the following Treaties or Alliances with the same, unless there has been a great Change made also in the respective Fortunes of those States, and that which was the less potent then, is become the more powerful or predominant. We do not see there has been any such alteration or mutation made amongst those two great Nations, the *French* and the *Turks* ; and this has certainly still as great advantage now over *Lewis* the XIVth, as she had over *Francis* the 1st, when he took this Oath. 2. *Francis* the 1st. was certainly, as appears by his History, far less Ambitious, and a Better, and Greater Man in all respects, than *Lewis* the XIVth ever was. 3. There must needs be a horrid Engagement between them, against the Christians, since we see every year, what efforts the *French* King makes against *Germany* in the *Turks* behalf, and that the *Turks* persist in continuing this War, so extremely ruinous to them, against their Custom. But however it be, it can be easily proved, he has done much worse in that respect, than his Predecessor engaged to do, so that we cannot do him any injury, in thinking he has taken the same Oath, or a worse one, if possible. For suppose *Lewis* the XIVth, has not taken the same Oath, yet it cannot be denied, that he is more guilty, for having done without Oath, what *Francis* the 1st, had engaged by Oath to do, but did not actually perform it. This took that Oath, Transported with a great Passion against *Charles* the Vth, Emperour, but the other does it in cold Blood. And we do not see by *Francis* his History, he has done any great mischief to Christians, in behalf of the *Turks*, comparable to what *Lewis* the XIVth has done. 'Tis worse ten times to commit a Crime without threatening ; than to threaten without committing of it.

By all the Tenour of this present *French* King's Conduct, we see he has Sworn, I know not how many Oaths upon the *Holy Gospel*

and *Baptism*, in several Alliances and Treaties with most States in *Europe*, and with his own Subjects also, and has broken as many times his Oaths. This is as much as to say, the *Gospel* and the *Christian Faith* are false, and to deny that *Christ* is Living. When he does condemn one year by all his Universities, the *Pope's* Infallibility, and his Authority above the Council, his Power over the Temporals of Princes, and of Deposing them when he pleases ; and another year admits the same Infallibility of the *Pope*, and his Almighty Power both in *Heaven* and *Earth*, &c. Is it not as much as to say, the *Gospel* is false, and the *Christian Faith*, a trifle ? When he pretends to impose Laws upon Mens Consciences, and force them to believe what he pleases, and will be called by the Name of *Providence*, of *Immortal*, of *Divine Majesty*, is it not as much as to curse the *Gospel* and the *Christian Faith* ? As for his being a special Friend to the *Turks*, and an Enemy to his Enemies, every body knows what mischiefs he has done to *Germany* ; in behalf of the Infidels, and how he helps them with all kind of Officers and Engineers against the Emperour, the *Polonians*, and *Venetians*, and has exhausted almost all the Money of his Kingdom for their sake, postponing his own Subjects Interest, to theirs, and treating them as Enemies to the *Turks* : So that 'tis evident, he must have taken his Predecessor's Oath with the *Turks*, or some other more execrable Oath, since he has done a great deal worse, and is without Comparison more Ambitious, and Irreligious than *Francis* the 1st was, and stands in greater need of the *Turks* help, for his unjust Designs.

We have here also a true Character of the *Turks* Genius, who prescribed the *French* King such a Contradictory and Blasphemous Oath, upon which they could not rely in the least, if they had had any Honesty or Judgment. For how could they imagine, that a Man professing himself to be a Christian, and calling the *Gospel* Holy, and the *Baptism* Holy, &c. would oblige himself seriously and in earnest, to deny all the Truths of the *Gospel*, in case he failed himself of his word ; that is, to believe that God should be false, because he should have been false himself. For 'tis just the same, as if a Christian Prince, did exact from the *Sultan* such an Oath, whereby the *Sultan* should swear by his Holy *Alchoran*, and the Holy *Mahometan* Faith, and by his Great Prophet *Mahomet*, that he would be faithful to Christians, in destroying the *Mahometan's* Interest ; and in case he did neglect to do it like a Knave, *Mahomet* would be a Knave also, and his *Alchoran* a Fable, and that he would hereafter Worship a Hog in his *Mosque*, and commit Adultery upon *Mahomet's* Tomb. Certainly, no Man of any Honesty or Judgment, would impose such an Oath upon any other Man. The *Turks* did it only out of a blind and inveterate aversion they bear to the Christian Religion ; they pretended to raise thereby a great Triumph to *Mahomet*, over our Saviour. For how is it possible otherwise, to trust to such an Oath, which none but a Treacherous and Unworthy Man can take, of what Religion soever he may be ?

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